

# **Blaine County Cooperative Weed Management Area**

## **ISDA Cost Share Programs**

**(Note: This report is limited to projects associated with the ISDA Cost Share Program)**

### **End of Year Report Year 2003**



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# **Introduction**

The Blaine County Cooperative Weed Management Area was developed to facilitate effective treatment and coordinate control efforts over the long-term. The Blaine CWMA has developed common management objectives, set realistic management priorities, and identified priority weed species.

The goals of the Blaine County CWMA are to: Prevent the introduction, reproduction and spread of noxious weeds and invasive exotic plants; Reduce the extent and density of established noxious weeds to levels that are acceptable; Implement the most economical and effective control methods for target weeds; Implement an integrated management system using appropriate methods of treatment and control; Educate the public as to the importance of proper weed management and get the needed media coverage to show what is being done.

The area covered by this agreement includes all of Blaine County.

The major weeds of importance in the area include knapweed, leafy spurge, dalmation toadflax, scotch thistle and yellow toadflax. Major efforts are being made to control these weeds each year.

The Chairperson of the Blaine County CWMA is Sarah Michael. Cooperators in the CWMA include private landowners, county government, non-profit land and environmental organizations, state and federal land management agencies, as well as interested individuals and organizations.

# Summary of Year 2003 Projects

The 2003 weed control season was a transitional year for the Blaine County CWMA. The Blaine County Weed Department has staffed a permanent position to manage projects and serve as outreach coordinator for both county weed projects and CWMA projects.

## Coordination Meetings

Two coordination meetings were held prior to the field season to establish objectives, goals, finalize the annual operating plan, and plan the summers' events. There were also two meetings in the fall to summarize the season and plan for 2004.

## Education / Outreach

The Blaine County CWMA conducted a number of education / outreach initiatives.

- A noxious weed awareness flyer was included in county tax notices mailed to approximately 12,500 property owners in Blaine County.
- A “Weed-Out” day coordinated by the Wood River Land Trust and co-sponsored by the BLM and Blaine County Weed Control. The project was conducted along Elkhorn Creek and consisted of lectures, distribution of weed education materials and citizens weed pulling efforts.



Weed-Out Day along Elkhorn Creek

- A “Weed-Out” day conducted by the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation and co-sponsored by the BLM and Blaine County Weed Control. The staff, coaches and youth members of the foundation performed a one-day weed-pulling project along the Big Wood River north of Ketchum



Weed-Out Day along the Big Wood River

## **Weed Control Projects**

The Blaine County CWMA received funding for four of the seven cost share proposals submitted to the ISDA Noxious Weed Program. There were also two carry-over programs from previous years funded by the ISDA Cost Share Program.

### **#1 – Leafy Spurge / Dyers Woad Map & Treat**

This program targeted primarily Leafy Spurge in the lower Little Wood River drainage. The control efforts were a combination of BLM, Blaine County and private landowner herbicide application. The BLM used a helicopter to spot infestations and for transportation into limited access areas in the lava flow areas for spot spraying. Blaine County Weed Control targeted infestations along road right-of-ways. Approximately twenty private landowners were supplied with herbicide through the funding provided by ISDA cost share. This served as an incentive for landowners to address the leafy spurge problems on their property.

## **#2-Highway 75 Corridor / /Knapweed Control Project**

This project was the largest and most diverse project conducted by the CWMA during the 2003 weed season. As described by the title, the project focused on the areas directly adjacent to US 75 that run north and south through the Big Wood River Valley of Blaine County. The southern boundary was Timmerman Hill; the northern boundary was Baker Creek. The primary target species was knapweed, diffuse in the southern sections and spotted in the northern section. Blaine County Weed Control conducted extensive herbicide applications along the abandoned railroad right-of-way along with areas adjacent to US 75, portions of which serve as stock trail rights-of-way for movement of flocks of sheep. A number of small projects were also conducted in side drainages adjacent to the main corridor.

A large one-day, multi-agency workday was conducted in early July in the area directly north of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) headquarters. This area has a significant infestation of spotted knapweed and receives a lot of public attention due to its proximity of a major recreation transportation corridor. The workday was a cooperative effort made up of regional federal and non-federal agencies. Approximately 1000 acres were treated in this one-day effort.



SNRA Work Day

### **#3-Sawtooth City / Yellow Toadflax Project**

The northern extreme of Blaine County lies in the upper Salmon River drainage. This area has a significant infestation of Yellow Toadflax on both private and public land. Our efforts for the 2003 season focused primarily on Forest Service property known as “Busterback Ranch”. This property lies on the Blaine-Custer County line. The weed control effort on this property occurred over a one-week period and was a collaboration of the USFS, Blaine County and Custer County. The total area treated was approximately 4000 acres.

A one-day neighborhood workday was also conducted in Sawtooth City as part of the overall project. Blaine County Weed Control, in cooperation with the Sawtooth City Home Owners Association treated Yellow Toadflax infestations in and around the neighborhood.



Work Day at Busterback Ranch near Smiley Creek



#### **#4-Southern Idaho Biological Control**

Our fourth priority cost share project was focused at the use of biological control agents. The primary emphasis of this project was to provide educational opportunities for local middle school students and also serve as a vehicle for community outreach / education. The project consisted of; the establishment of a knapweed insectory on property made available by The Valley Club, country club. Six students and Bridget Kapala, a Wood River Middle School science teacher, formed the “Bug Crew” from June through Mid-August. The Bug Crew conducted a wide variety of projects related to biological control of weeds including; training, establishment of insectory sites, harvesting and distribution of bio-agents and monitoring of established sites.



“Planting Knapweed” for Bio-Control Insectory

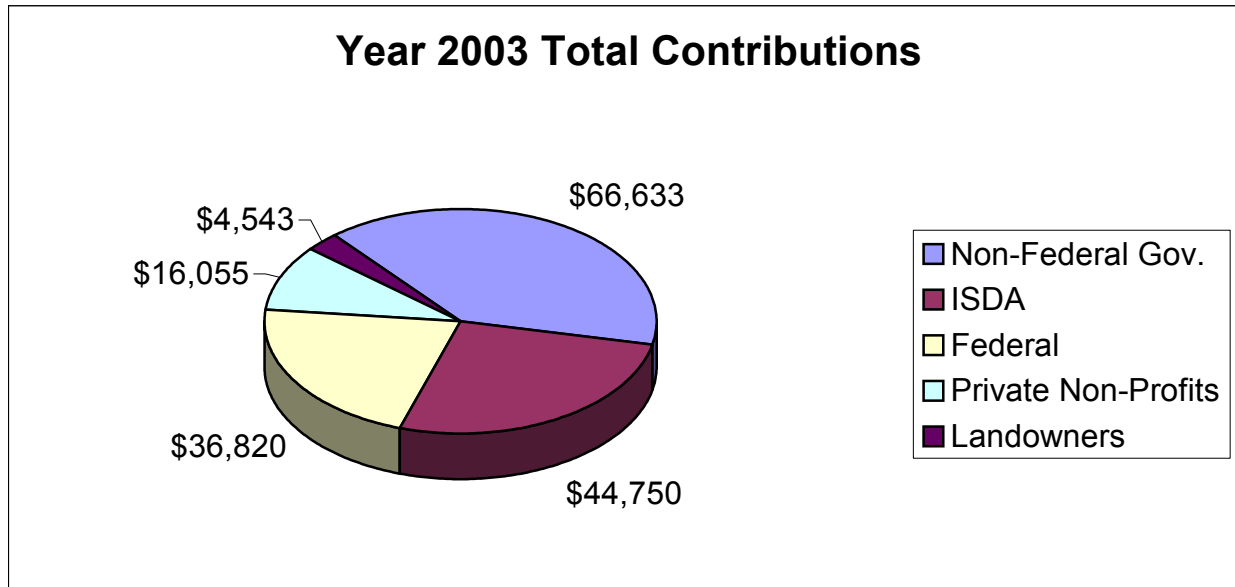
#### **Carry-Over Projects**

Two projects from previous years, the Willow Creek Fire Project and the Elk Winter Range Project were not conducted due to some last minute changes of available personnel and general lack of coordination of initiation of these projects. Our original plan was to return these funds to ISDA. During processing of our Grant Amendment Request, ISDA management suggested that the remaining funds be directed to a high priority project addressing biological control of Hoary Cress (White Top). The Blaine County CWWA agreed and created a program to make the carry-over funds available for this effort. Project #8- Biological Control for Hoary Cress was approved by ISDA and funds were transferred to the Hoary Cress Biological Control Consortium.



## Contributions and Expenditures for the Blaine County CWMA

The following pie chart shows a break down of all contributions obtained for the Blaine County CWMA in the 2003 season. A total of \$168,801 dollars of cash funds, contributed time, equipment, and supplies were received.



# **Plans for Blaine County CWMA 2004 Season**

The Blaine County CWMA has developed a wide range of programs for the 2004 season. The CWMA is organized into working groups for our four major watersheds. Following is a summary of our proposed projects.

## **Fish Creek**

The Fish Creek watershed working group will continue the collaborative effort that began in 2003 to control spotted and diffuse knapweed along the highway 20 corridor from the Fish Creek Reservoir road entrance to the county border and will initiate a new project to eliminate scotch thistle from the West Fork of Fish Creek drainage. The goal of the knapweed project is to eliminate the spread of knapweed from the main highway corridor, with special emphasis on protecting weed free areas, like the Craters of the Moon lava flows, and the higher elevation weed-free sagebrush steppe, aspen, riparian, and coniferous ecosystems. The goal of the scotch thistle project is to improve the ecological condition of degraded riparian ecosystems by improving grazing management, eliminating scotch thistle, and restoring the native plant communities in the West Fork of Fish Creek. These projects will be collaborative efforts that include elements of weed control, improved grazing management, restoration, inventory and mapping and community involvement.

## **Little Wood River**

The primary objective of the Little Wood Watershed Working Group is to continue with the Leafy Spurge control effort by supporting private property owners with herbicide and equipment availability. Target areas will be the Little Wood and Silver Creek drainages. Along with control/eradication efforts the working group will:

- Conduct GPS mapping and inventory efforts.
- Introduce biological control agents targeting Leafy Spurge.
- Develop a management strategy for restoration efforts.
- Conduct education and community outreach to inform affected property owners of issues related to Leafy Spurge infestations and control resources available to them.

## **Big Wood River**

The Big Wood Watershed working group is proposing a multi-faceted program to address the weed control needs in the Big Wood River drainage. The primary target species are Diffuse and Spotted Knapweed, Scotch Thistle and Dalmation Toadflax. Building on the successes from the 2003 project, we would like to propose the following individual projects:

- Sawtooth National Recreation Area, Multi-Agency Work Day
- Neighborhood Working Groups Initiatives
- Non-Profit Organizations Initiatives
- Public Lands / Urban Interface Projects
- Blaine County Recreation District / Bike Path
- Rail Road & Stock Trail Right-of Way
- Hwy 75 Corridor
- Elk Winter Range Habitat Restoration
- Big Wood River Riparian Corridor Evaluation and Plan Development
- Property Owner Education / Outreach

## **Upper Salmon River**

The Upper Salmon River Watershed working group will target Yellow Toadflax in the areas of the Busterback Ranch and Sawtooth City. Continuing from the success of the 2003 season, we will repeat the multi-agency work project employing USFS, Blaine & Custer Counties and local property owners. The 2004 program will expand in scope to include:

- Use of biological control agents in appropriate areas.
- Increase in Education & Outreach efforts.
- Evaluation of the Salmon River Riparian Corridor
- Evaluation of the threat of Aquatic Weed Infestations in Alturus & Petite Lakes.

# Appendix I

## Steering Committee

Name	Company	Mailing Address	Phone	E-Mail
Sarah Michael	Blaine County Commissioner	206 1st Ave St, Hailey, ID 83333	788-5500	sarahmichael@sunvalley.net
Dick Payne	Payne Ranch	P.O. Box 113, Carey, ID 83320	823-4377	rabpayne@msn.com
Bill Barker	TNC Silver Creek Preserve	P O Box 624, Picabo, ID 83348	788-4269	bbarker@tnc.org
Tess O’Sullivan	Lava Lake Land & Livestock	215 N. Main St., Ste 204, Hailey, ID 83333	788-1378	tess@lavalake.net
Paige Wolken	NPS Craters of the Moon	P O Box 29, Arco, ID 83213	527-3257	paige_wolken@nps.gov
Terry Gregory	Idaho Fish and Game	P.O. Box 128, Hill City, ID 83337	764-2489	tdgregory@surfbest.net
Doug Barnum	Bureau of Land Management	P O Box 2 B, Shoshone, 83352	732-7266	doug_barnum@blm.gov
Kameron Sam	USFS-SNRA Stanley Ranger Station	H C 64, Box 9900, Stanley 83278	774-3014	kcsam@fs.fed.us
Liese Dean	USFS-SNRA Stanley Ranger Station	H C 64, Box 9900, Stanley 83278	774-3017	ldean@fs.fed.us
Bill Whitaker	USFS Ketchum Ranger District.	P O Box 2356, Ketchum 83340	622-5371	bwhitaker@fs.fed.us
Shawn Webb	ITD	626 Eastland Dr, So. Twin Falls, ID 83301	736-3088	swebb@itd.state.id.us
Jake Zollinger	State Lands	P.O. Box 149, Gooding, ID 83330	934-5606	jzollinger@idl.state.id.us
Bob Simpson	Little Wood River Irrigation District	20478 N. Main St., Carey, ID 83320	823-4014	rlsimpson@sunvally.net
<u>Advisors:</u>				
John Cenarrusa	Blaine County Weed Control	P O Box 278, Carey, ID 83320	823-4017	bcweed007@aol.com
Don Wright	Blaine County Weed Control	119 N. River St., Hailey, ID 83333	788-5516	donwright@co.blaine.id.us
Ron Thaemert	U of I Extension Service	117 N River St, Hailey, ID 83333	788-5585	thaemert@uidaho.edu
Dennis McGonigal	Blaine Rec. Dist.	308 N Main St, Hailey, ID 83333	788-2117	dmcgonigal@bcrd.org
Stef Frenzl	Wood River Land Trust	PO Box 6376, Ketchum, ID 83340	788-3947	sfrenzl@woodriverlandtrust.org
Craig Barry	Environmental Resource Center	Box 819, Ketchum 83340	726-4333	craig@ercsv.org

## Appendix II

### Project Summaries:

Category	Weed species	Acres treated
Little Wood Watershed	Leafy Spurge	200
Highway 75	Knapweed	1800
	Scotch Thistle	100
Sawtooth City	Yellow Toadflax	4000
Bio-Control	Knapweed	10
Public Contacts	N/A	12,500

# Appendix III

## Insert in Blaine County Tax Notices – May 2003

### Aren't Weeds all the Same?

There are very few properties in Blaine County, which DON'T have noxious weeds on them. Chances are you may have one of the weeds pictured here, or one of the other State or County listed noxious weeds on your property.

**What is a noxious weed?** The plants are not native to the United States or our area, have proven to be very invasive, and are harmful to humans, animals, the environment and the economy. In a short period of time, these weeds can crowd out native or beneficial plants. Noxious weeds affect everyone... they decrease property values, devastate grazing lands for wildlife and livestock and can be actual health risks.

**State law requires landowners to control noxious weeds on their properties**



*Diffuse Knapweed*



*Spotted Knapweed*



*Dalmatian Toadflax*

To support this effort, the Blaine County Weed Department and the University of Idaho Extension Service offer a variety of services, including weed identification booklets, site reviews, advice on land rehabilitation or herbicide use, and other assistance.

Give your local weed experts a call at the phone numbers listed below.

#### **BLAINE COUNTY WEED CONTROL**

Box 278  
Carey, ID 83320  
(208) 823-4017  
(208) 720-8774  
John Cenarrusa, Administrator  
[Bcweed007@aol.com](mailto:Bcweed007@aol.com)

#### **UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO EXTENSION**

117 N. River Street  
Hailey, ID 83333  
(208) 788-5585  
(208) 481-0073  
Ron Thaemert, Extension Agent  
[thaemert@uidaho.edu](mailto:thaemert@uidaho.edu)

**CAUTION: Always wear gloves when handling weeds. Many contain toxins. Other protective clothing may also be appropriate.**

Protecting our resources with weed management is authorized by Idaho State Noxious Weed Laws, Title 22, Chapter 24